

Re Box V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The subject matter of the application relates to a gas turbine, with a sealing element being arranged between guide vane and rotor blade rings of the turbine part in order to seal off different pressure levels of the cooling air between guide vane and rotor blade rings.

Document D1 (US 4425078), which is considered the closest prior art, also describes a sealing element which is arranged between guide vane and rotor blade rings of a turbine part in order to seal off the hot gas of the hot-gas duct and the cooling air.

The device which is described in claim 1 differs from the device from document D1 by virtue of the fact that it seals off the various pressure levels of the cooling air for the guide vane and rotor blade rings with respect to one another and that it extends as a single piece over at least a quarter of a circle running perpendicularly on the turbine axis as its center point.

The problem addressed by the application is that of providing a sealing element which has a particularly good sealing action between blade/vane rings of a gas turbine, in order to seal off different pressure levels of cooling air, and is simple to install and inexpensive.

None of the cited documents renders a sealing element as described in claim 1 obvious. Consequently, a person skilled in the art seeking to solve the problem would not find any indication in the cited documents which would enable him to

modify the sealing element of document D1 in such a way as to arrive at the sealing element of claim 1.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel and inventive (PCT Article 33(2), PCT Article 33(3)).

Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.